

## (SAM INSULL IS HIT HARD BY TWO MOVES—COOLEY FIRED

Sam Insull had his grip of Chicago loosened a little yesterday. Insull is the chief operator for the bankers and promoters who are back of the Commonwealth Edison Co., the light and power trust, and the Chicago Elevated Railroads Collateral Trust, the combine of elevated railroads.

State's Att'y Hoyne got a decision from the supreme court which opens the way for showing up all the watered stock and queer money moves in elevated road finance.

And Lyman Cooley, chief engineer of the sanitary district board, was thrown out of his job. Cooley's official reports and other actions were a help to the Insull light and power trust, so much so that it was often charged the Commonwealth Edison Co. had a hand in writing the reports.

Those who want public ownership of these utilities say that chances for public ownership are made better by the actions yesterday.

Here's why Cooley was thrown out: Down at Lockport is a fine electric light and power plant worth somewhere over \$3,000,000. The people of Chicago own it. It is doing good work and paying its way, according to Trustees Clark and Paulin on the sanitary board.

Lyman Cooley wrote a report attacking the plant as a loser. The report was so rotten that when Clark and Paulin showed it up at sanitary board meetings the board decided the report should not be printed. Cooley goes ahead and has copies printed as he explained "for professional circulation." It was sent to places where light and power interests want to spoil municipal ownership.

The resolution throwing Cooley out of his job says he was guilty of "open and flagrant disobedience and insubordination." The report is called a "scandalously vicious attack against the district's hydro-electric plant and public ownership."

Ray Palmer, city electrician, and John Ericson, city engineer, signed the report so criticized yesterday.

Trustees Clark, Paulin, Reading and Kane voted for Cooley's dismissal.

It was a lively day for Sam Insull and his lawyers and under-cover men. Insull is not only chairman board of directors, Commonwealth Edison Co. He is also head director of the Chicago Elevated Railroads Collateral Trust, which holds a controlling interest in the bonds and stocks of the elevated roads.

The supreme court decided that State's Att'y Hoyne has the right to file information in quo warranto against the Union Elevated loop Ry. Co.

Hoyne says there is \$70,000,000 of stock in the elevated roads which is wind and water and though capitalized at \$122,000,000 the roads are not worth over \$52,000,000. Before Judge Windes and Judge Scanlan locally Hoyne failed to get permission to start his suit. Now the way is open for him to show jugglery and trickery.

"It's the first basic decision in railroad stock watering," said Att'y Glenn Plumb, who assisted Hoyne. "It provides a starting point for public ownership of the roads. The elevated roads must come into court and show they have not watered their stock. If they cannot show they have not watered stock they can expect to forfeit their franchises. Forfeiture is the penalty."

William G. Beale, attorney for the elevated roads and the Commonwealth Edison Co., is the controlling trustee of the Chicago Tribune. Sam Insull is a chief leading bondholder of the Herald. The present auditor in the Herald office came from the offices of the Edison Co.

County board given right to accept any bid by decision of Judge Windes in case of nurses' training school.